SOUTH VIET NAM In Struggle

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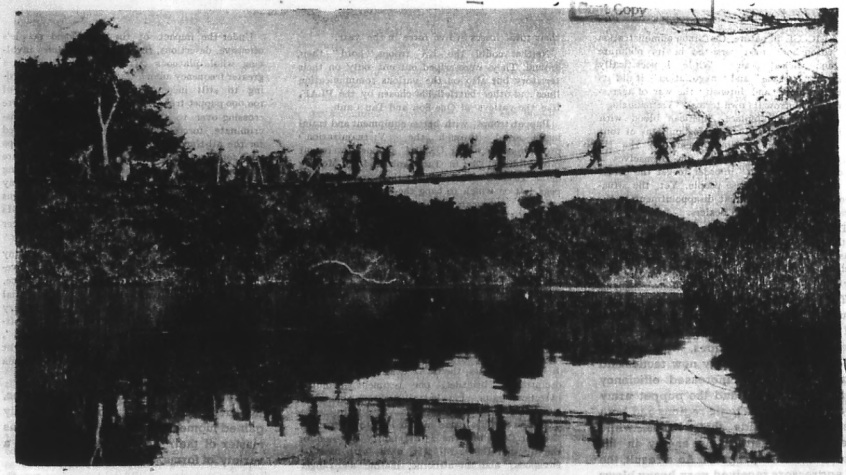

Liberation fighters: loyal sons of a revolutionary people, winners of last year's many brilliant successes.

1969 Year of great, all-round, steady successes of the people of South Viet Nam

(PAGES 2 & 3)

1969 - Year of great, all people

BELLICOSE in nature, the Nixon administration throughout 1969 persisted in its obdurate and wicked design. While hypocritically calling for "peace" and "negotiation" it did its best to prolong and intensify the war of aggression by, to borrow its own terms, "Vietnamizing" it. In trying to replace American blood with Vietnamese blood and dispensing millions of tons of explosive and noxious chemicals, the US aggressors hoped to create for themselves a "position of strength" in order to get the better of the South Vietnamese people. Yet, the situation last year was a great disappointment to the American gun and blood dealers.

Throughout the year, they were attacked without let-up, sustaining severe setbacks, whereas the South Vietnamese people recorded one victory after another, all of them very big, all-round and steady.

The people's war developed vigorously, with the rational use and successful combination of all the three kinds of the people's armed forces, who employed with successes many new tactics and fought with greatly increased efficiency both the US forces and the puppet army in all the three strategic regions and both inside and outside their bases, while seeking to frustrate the enemy in his "pacification" program. As a result, the US aggressors received very heavy blows in their "Vietnamization" effort.

IN their offensive posture and strong with their valour, the South Vietnamese people and the PLAF launched big attacks which were all richly awarded, thus successively foiling the various plans of the US aggressors, in spite of the enemy's concentrated efforts and criminal war moves.

As for the US-puppets, for all their 3-ring defence system, their sudden raids and long-range operations, they were quite helpless in the face of the irresistible onslaughts of the liberation forces.

1969 saw four successive PLAF campaigns on all the fronts with the PLAF opening up against over 6,000 objectives, many of them coming under fire as many as 10, or even 20 times. Some 645,000 US, puppet and satellite troops were put out of action.

While the enemy endeavoured to defend their hideous and push the war away from the towns, the people's forces continuously hammered at him in some 100 regimental, brigade or divisional headquarters, 85 district or provincial administrative centres, 45 cities or provincial capitals, 50 airbases, and many important logistical complexes.

Of the very large quantity of war means in reserve destroyed by the PLAF were 6,4000 aircraft, 10,000 vehicles, 1,700 war vessels, 500 big guns, and 900 storages. As compared with 1968, the enemy lost 7% more in war planes, 7% more in ships. Their big gun losses even doubled.

The enemy could not "sweep" away the PLAF, not even the militia and guerilla forces, who were smart enough to inflict on them 59% of their total losses in live force in the year.

Neither could the US troops "hold" their ground. They were wiped out not only on their territory but also on the various communication lines and other battlefields chosen by the PLAF, like the valleys of Que Son and Tan Canh.

Puppet troops, with better equipment and training received through the "Vietnamization" program and bigger US fire support, were cut into ribbons, like in Tan Canh and the Mekong delta. It is thus obvious that there were very few pegs left on which to hang the hope of the US to cut the American casualty rate or to put into practice Laird's "Asian theory".

So, both the US forces and the puppet army took hard beatings, losing a great part of their treasured live force. Meanwhile, the creative PLAF were very successful in their actions in which, whatever the number of men they fielded, they always took a heavy toll of the enemy's lives. Altogether, over 2,000 US officers or technicians were wiped out—more than 500 of them in the Cam Ranh military port along, during a surprise attack by a small force of the PLAF. In terms of units, the PLAF destroyed or heavily decimated 5 brigades, one regiment, 3 multi-battalion units, 122 battalions, and about 900 companies, of the US-puppets. Heavy losses in lives and material were inflicted on the Americal, the Air Cav, and the 25th Infantry Division of the US, and the 23rd, 21st, 18th, 17th and 1st Divisions, and the airborne, marine and ranger forces of the puppets.

The PLAF always took the initiative. In their serialized attacks early in the year, the liberation forces mainly aimed at the middle ring of enemy defences where most of the enemy force was committed. Later, they tackled the outer-ring defences and other key targets, while decoying the enemy to pre-arranged battlefields and opening up in all the three strategic regions, making it very hard for the enemy to protect himself. In the U Minh jungle area where he deployed as many as 15 battalions, the enemy

lost more than 600 lives. In Bu Prang area, he took more than 1,000 casualties despite a force of 20 battalions committed to the Duc Lap—Bu Prang front. During their headlong flight from Que Son valley, the US aggressors left behind over 300 of their killed troops.

Very great successes were also recorded in foiling the enemy's "pacification" program and in enlarging the liberated one. The PLAF and people blazed away at 95% of the district towns, townlets and military sub-sectors, and over 900 posts and other minor military positions, disbanding 130 "pacification" teams, wiping out 18,000 cruel enemy agents, and razing more than 700 "strategic hamlets" and other concentration camps.

Under the impact of the PLAF and people's offensive, desertions, revolts and mutinies involving whole platoons or companies occurred at a greater frequency among the puppet army. According to still incomplete statistics, a total of 190,000 puppet troops deserted, or mutinied before crossing over to the Revolution in 1969. Indiscriminate, forcible induction partly accounted for the all-time low morale of the puppet troops and for repatriation as well as desertions are growing. There were demonstrations involving dozens of thousands of privates and even many officers, in support of the various peace campaigns back in the States. Not a small number of GIs sought civilian jobs in South Viet Nam after running away from their units.

In a word, the PLAF last year applied many new, effective tactics, and there were improvements in their operational and strategic guidance. The destruction of enemy live force and material was carried out at a big rate. All the military plans of the enemy were shattered. The oft-repeated claims of "a lull on the battlefield", "lower American casualty rate" and "light losses of the ARVN" were but psywar propaganda meant to boodwink the public.

In addition to big military successes, the people's political struggle steadily gained momentum. The people's role as master of their destiny, expressed in a variety of forms, was strengthened.

Great progress was made in building the new life in the liberated zone, as can be seen from good production and successful education and cultural work. The people's timely, plentiful contribution in man-power and material to the front assured a sustained, victorious fight. Popular power was consolidated at both central and grassroots levels. In the towns, the struggle for better living, democracy, neutrality and peace drew in large sections of the population, whereas the puppet ranks were beset with strifes, and the isolation and weakness of the Thieu-Ky-Khiem trio became even more manifest.

ONE of the major schemes of the enemy last year was to accelerate the "pacification", which in essence was to resort to more atrocious war methods to win and pen in the population in order to re-establish his control over areas where it had been broken.

To maintain their power, the people combined political struggle with armed attacks, punishing enemy agents and resisting repression. To shirk slave labour imposed upon them, the people in contested areas would try to get together in one place and refused to budge an inch from it. Those living under direct enemy occupation would seek ways and means to do their share in the nation-wide resistance, sending their children to the front, raising funds for the Revolution, or volunteering as war suppliers.

Concerted popular uprisings broke out one

round, steady success of the of South Viet Nam

after another in many villages, districts or provinces, adding new territories to the liberated zone. Altogether 515,000 people rose up in Central Trung Bo last year, and 220,000 of them were at last liberated from the enemy grip.

The people's power, firmly established, exerted a great influence even on areas still under enemy control. The Congress of the South Viet Nam People's Representatives and the establishment thereafter of the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam marked a new development and a big victory of the South Vietnamese revolution. People's power has been set up so far in 81% of the villages, 60% of the districts, and 97% of the provinces of South Viet Nam. In other places, the puppet administration only exists for the form.

The people's struggle in the towns although not so stirring as in 1968, was carried on with great resolve, and marked a good progress in quality, with growing demands for better living conditions, democracy, peace, a popular government, the pullout of US troops, and against economic exploitation, repression, and military service. Workers struck again and again, and the struggle against heavy "austerity taxes" drew in many from the business circles, the puppet army, and even the Saigon Congress. As a result, the Tran Van Huong cabinet was toppled. The present Thieu-Ky-Khiem junta, is in a tough spot.

Peace and neutrality have won the hearts of many people. Political groupings have made their appearance and are working against the Thieu-Ky-Khiem trio, thus rendering more acute the conflict among the ruling junta.

The US has failed in its attempt to build a political backing for Thieu-Ky-Khiem. The enemy's rear area is now in a chaos, while revolutionary political organizations and armed units are operating in strength. Those areas where the people have set up their own power are consolidating.

The revolutionary administration continues giving land to the tillers. So far, over 2 million hectares have been divided among the peasantry, who, glad with their gains, are enthusiastically stepping up production and promoting the collective mode of work. Even the minority peoples are changing their own way of farming, applying with successes new farming methods. In response to the call of the Provisional Revolutionary Government, the people as well as cadres and armymen, have put under crop vast stretches of vaste land.

The teaching staff for schools keeps being replenished. Schools have been built with classes enough for all schools-age children. Special attention is given to adults' courses. Education also makes good headway in areas inhabited by minority nationals.

Art ensembles, information groups and mobile movies teams work firelessly to entertain the public — the people and armymen. The Liberation Film Studio has turned out many good movies highly appreciated even abroad.

Medical service has played an important role in improving the health of the population.

Despite the enemy's frenzied effort to sabotage the independent economy in the liberated zone, the people have made greater and greater contributions to the fight, both in money and man-power.

So, the enemy has faided in his attempts to sabotage the liberated zone economically as well as in his sinister move to prolong the war and secure a political backing in Saigon. The forces of resistance, in spite of certain temporal and local difficulties, have ceaselessly consolidated and strengthened. The strength of people's war, which is the resultant force of the people's armed attacks and political struggle, has accounted for the big victories which the enemy is unable to check. This is also the strength of the bloc of national unity brought into full play in the just cause pursued by the NFL.

1969 also saw greater support, moral and material, from the world's peoples, from many governments, and many international organizations, to the South Vietnamese people. The movement for an end to the US war and the pullout of all US and satellite troops from South Viet Nam developed with might and main in the United States and the rest of the world. The obduracy and ruthlessness of the US and its henchmen, completely exposed as they are, have increased the latter's alienation from the rest of mankind.

A major victory of the South Vietnamese people came early in 1969 when the US government was compelled to recognize the role of the NFL — and later, that of the RSVN Provisional Revolutionary Government — as the legitimate representative of the people at the Paris Conference. The Front's reasonable and fair 10-point overall solution won the sympathy and support of broad sections of the world public, and was recognized as the correct basis for the political settlement of the South Viet Nam issue. The US did not succeed in its attempt to turn the Paris Conference into a stage for its political machinations. On the contrary, the US-puppets were condemned ever more strongly for their obstinacy, immorality and ferocity, while the progressive people of the United States and the world's peoples saw more and more clearly the justness of the South Vietnamese people's fight, hence their stronger support for it.

Sterner condemnation was also raised against the Nixon administration's pious claim for "peace", its "Vietnamization" policy, as well as its troop withdrawals in dribblets. The savage crimes perpetrated by the aggressors in Son My and other parts of South Viet Nam aroused boiling indignation from the world's peoples. The world front against US aggression was never so broad, and its actions were never so resolute.

By the millions, Americans, including many from the political circles, took to the streets during the three Moratorium Days late in 1969 to protest their government's war, and demand the return of GIs in South Viet Nam and an end to the war useless and costly to them. Resolutions were adopted by many international meetings, all condemning the US war and voicing support for the people of South Viet Nam. The governments and peoples of the socialist countries and many other countries gave valuable support to the people of South Viet Nam, both morally and materially.

In the international arena, the prestige of the NFL and the RSVN PRG was greatly enhanced. So far, 25 countries have recognized the PRG, and many others have decided to establish diplomatic relations with it. The many visits paid to the various countries in Asia, Africa and Latin America, and the participation in many international congresses, by delegations of the NFL., the RSVN PRG and South Vietnamese mass organizations in 1969 have further cemented the militant solidarity between the South Vietnamese people and the peoples and governments of many countries in the world.

1969 was thus a year of bitter drawbacks to the US imperialists and their lackeys both in the world and in South Viet Nam.

LOOKING back upon the past year, the people and PLAF of South Viet Nam greatly rejoice at their great achievements.

This year, fired by their previous successes, they will be more resolved to make greater exploits, acting upon the NFL Central Committee's call for greater unity, sharper vigilance, and higher perseverance in the war of resistance — on both the military, political and diplomatic planes — to defeat the US war of aggression, and to force the complete withdrawal of the aggressors and the stepping down of the puppets, first of all to foil the "Vietnamization" plan, destroy more live force and war materials of the enemy, shatter his "accelerated pacification" program, and step up the struggle for better living and democracy in the towns, while defending and enlarging the liberated zone, developing guerilla warfare, building up the PLAF and the political forces, and promoting production.

This resolve the people of South Viet Nam will maintain till the winning of complete victory.

VU BA

PLAF IMPORTANT VICTORIES in 1969

(Excerpts of PLAF Command communique of December 31, 1969)

1 — 1969 was the year when the PLAF continued to maintain and develop their offensive and recorded very big victories.

The US aggressors did their best to beef up their defence through most brutal war manoeuvres, especially by increasing their fire power and using B52 bombers and toxic chemicals on the highest level so far. However, with their high determination to fight and to win, the South Viet Nam armed forces and people unremittingly promoted their generalized offensives and uprisings and inflicted heavy losses on the enemy.

The main force, regional army and guerillas last year powerfully and accurately hit a series of nerve organs, combat units, rear bases, airfields, storages and land and water supply lines of the enemy, wiping out many more enemy troops than in 1968. For all their precautions and defensive measures, the enemy losses in both big and small size units were on the upgrade.

2 — 1969 was a year of repeated and persistent offensive by the South Viet Nam armed forces and people, marking a new step forward on the generalized offensive and uprising movement.

In effect, not a month passed without the enemy taking serious beating. This demonstrates the quick growth of the PLAF, their efficacious performance on all the three areas — the plains, mountainous areas and towns—and capacity for a sustained fight and for defeating completely the US aggressors in any eventuality.

3 — 1969 was the year of all-round offensives and all-round victories of the PLAF and people on the military, political and diplomatic fronts.

Besides the brilliant military victories, 1969 saw a political event of tremendous importance for our people: the formation of the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam.

The ten-point overall solution advanced by the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation lent more lustre to the justice of our people's fight against US aggression and their goodwill for peace. This solution has enjoyed approval and support from the people throughout Viet Nam and the people throughout the world. 1969 was marked by a great loss for the Vietnamese people with the passing away of President Ho Chi Minh. Contrary to the illusory hope of the US imperialists who predicted some decline in the combat morale of our people following this grievous happening, our people and armed forces throughout the country have turned grief into revolutionary deeds and dashed forward with a firm determination to carry out the President Ho's Testament.

4. The big and all-round victories of the South Viet Nam armed forces and people in 1969 were a stinging blow dealt at the US and puppets' "Vietnamization" of the war manoeuvre.

Far from realizing their scheme to reduce GI casualties in order to appease public opinion in the US which is demanding an end to the US aggression and immediate US troop pull-out, the US aggressors took greater casualties in 1969 than in 1968.

MILITARY BALANCE OF 1969

(incomplete statistics)

★ 645,000 enemy troops including 235,000 GIs and satellite troops wiped out, wounded or captured (as against 630,000 and 230,000 in 1968 respectively).

★ 5 brigades, 1 regiment, 3 multi-battalion units, 122 battalions, 130 "pacification" teams and nearly 900 companies of the US and puppets wiped out or decimated.

★ A huge quantity of weapons, ammunition, war materials and equipment destroyed including 6,400 aircraft of various types, 19,000 military vehicles (10,000 tanks and armoured cars), 2,500 cannons and heavy mortars (more than double the 1968 figure), 1,700 warships and combat launches (nearly twice as in 1968), 900 ammunition and fuel depots.

They hoped to make up for their sinking moral by a massive increase of weapons and war means but the fact is that more and more US weapons and war means have been destroyed.

The "accelerated pacification" plan considered by the US as the backbone of their "Vietnamization" of the war scheme has been foiled and is heading for complete failure.

Many areas formerly regarded as "secure" for the US have come under repeated attacks. The more they spread their forces, the harder the US and puppets were hit by the liberation forces and people who are determined to wipe them out chunk by chunk.

The US aggressors wanted to beef up the puppet army and send them out to die in the place of the GIs but the puppet troops have taken ever heavier losses.

They wanted to consolidate the puppet administration and rally the reactionary political parties to build a political prop, but this administration was rent by deeper and deeper conflicts and is isolated more than ever before.

5. The victories of the South Viet Nam armed forces and people in 1969 have shaken even the rear base of the US aggressors.

Despite all the perfidious manoeuvres of Nixon to appease and deceive the American people, the movement of the progressive people in the United States for a halt to the US aggression and withdrawal of American troops so that the Vietnamese people may settle themselves their internal affairs, is taking such dimensions as never seen before in the history of the protest movements in the US.

Warmly sympathizing with and supporting the Vietnamese people's great and sacred resistance war, the movement against the US war has taken place more and more vigorously and violently. The Nixon administration is facing serious isolation in the United States and the world.

Heavy packs on their back, Southvietnamese Liberation fighters defying difficulties on the road to the front are set out to perform feats of arms.

101e DIVISION DE PARAS US
101ST AIRBORNE DIVISION US
AIR BORNE
- De l'hiver à Août : plus de 7 455 ennemis tués à A Bia, 2 bataillons anéantis au Camp ESEPIC.
+ From February to August : more than 7,455 enemy troops wiped out at A Bia, 1 battalion annihilated at ESEPIC Camp.
- 3e brigade : 2 fois attaquée fortement et gravement endommagée à A Bia.
+ 3rd brigade : twice hardly attacked and gravely damaged at A Bia.
DIVISION AMERICAL
AMERICAL DIVISION
- Début Printemps 1969 : 5 000 ennemis tués. Le QG de division, les QG des 196e, 198e et 11e brigades détruits et gravement endommagés.
+ Beginning Spring 1969 : 5000 enemy troops wiped out. The HQ of division, the HQs of 196th, 198th and 11th brigades destroyed and gravely damaged.
- 6 000 ennemis éliminés en 17 premiers jours de Mai.
+ 6000 enemy troops eliminated in 17 first days of May.
- 196e brigade gravement endommagée à l'ouest de Tam Ky.
+ 196th brigade heavily damaged at west of Tam Ky.
4E DIVISION D'INFANTERIE US
4TH INFANTRY DIVISION US
- 3e brigade violemment attaquée, 1 bataillon, 1 compagnies entièrement détruits à Kontum comprenant 6.765 ennemis.
+ 3rd brigade violently attacked, 1 battalion, 8 companies entirely destroyed at Kontum comprising 6765 enemy troops.
1RE DIVISION D'INFANTERIE US
1ST INFANTRY DIVISION
- Le QG de division à Lai Khe 6 fois attaqué.
+ The HQ of division at Lai Khe attacked 6 times.
- Le QG de la 1re brigade à Tech Nich et 3 bataillons détruits et gravement endommagés
+ The HQ of the 1st Brigade at Tech Nich and 3 battalions destroyed and hardly damaged.
- Plus de 3 300 ennemis éliminés à Ben Cat, Lai Khe et sur la route 13.
+ Nearly 3300 enemies eliminated at Ben Cat, Lai Khe and on highway 13.
1RE DIVISION "AIR CAVALRY"
1ST AIR MOBILE CAVALRY DIVISION
- Dans 2 mois Mai et Juin seulement, 5 bataillons, 22 compagnies anéantis et gravement endommagés.
+ In 2 months of May and June only, 5 bataillons, 22 companies annihilated and gravely damaged.
- Août : 3e Brigade et 2 bataillons gravement endommagés.
+ August : 3rd brigade and 2 battalions sreverely damaged.
1RE ET 3E DIVISIONS DE "MARINES" US
1ST AND 3RD MARINE DIVISIONS US
- 8 150 ennemis, 5 bataillons d'artillerie anéantis, 2 QG de Division attaqués gravement endommagés dans les 5 premiers mois de 1969.
+ 8,150 enemy troops, 5 battalions of artillery annihilated, 2 HQs of Division attacked and seriously damaged in 5 fisrt months of 1969.
- 2 bataillons, 2 QG de regiment anéantis et gravement endommagés.
+ 2 battalions, 2 HQs of Regiments annihilated and gravely damaged.
11E RÉGIMENT DE BLINDÉS US
11ST INDEPENDENT ARMOURED REGIMENT
- Mai et Juin seulement : 2 bataillons anéantis et gravement endommagés, près de 200 véhicules (and un grand de tanks et blindés) détruits à Binh Long.
+ May and June only : 2 battalions annihilated and gravely damaged, nearly 200 military vehicles including many tanks and armored cars destroyed.
- Août : 2 bataillons durement endommagés à Binh Long.
+ August : 2 battalions dammed endamaged at Binh Long.
23E DIVISION D'INFANTERIE US
23TH INFANTRY DIVISION
- 5 premier mois de 1969 : 5 first months of 1969 :
- Les QG de Division et de Brigades tous attaqués violemment, 7 000 ennemis tués.
+ The HQ of Division and Brigades violently attacked, 7000 enemy troops killed.
- 6 bataillons, 18 compagnies anéantis entièrement.
+ 6 battalions, 18 companies entirely annihilated.
- Mai et Juin : Plus de 4 000 ennemis tués.
+ Nearly 4000 enemy troops killed.
9E DIVISION D'INFANTERIE US
9TH INFANTRY DIVISION US
- Le QG de Division à Binh Duc (My Tho) attaqué plus de 30 fois, plus de 2 000 ennemis tués.
+ The HQ of Division at Binh Duc (My Tho) attacked more than 30 times, more than 2000 enemy troops killed.
- 1 200 ennemis éliminés au Canal Rhan Tuyen (Kien Tuong)
+ 1200 enemy troops eliminated at Rhan Tuyen Canal (Kien Tuong)
LÉGENDE LEGEND
Insigne particulier de chaque division américaine. Particular badge of each american division.
Zone où les FAPL ont attaqué violemment et remporté de grandes victoires. Areas where the PLAF attacked violently and recorded brilliant victories.
Les grands combats victorieux des FAPL. The victorious combats of PLAF.
Aérodromes ennemis attaqués plusieurs fois. Enemy air field attacked several times.
Ports attaqués et détruits. Harbours attacked and destroyed.
Voies de communication attaquées et coupées. Communication lines attacked and cut off.
Convois de véhicules blindés détruits. Convoys of armoured vehicles destroyed.
Dépôts d'armes, de munitions attaqués plusieurs fois. Ammunition and fuel depots attacked many times.
DMZ
Cua-Viet
Dong-Ha
Gio-Linh
Camlo
Tan-Lam
QUANG-TRI
Mai-Lang
HUE
Phu-Bai
Co-Ca
Ta Bia
DA-NANG
Nuoc-man
HOI-AN
Dai-Loc
An-Hoa
Duy-Xuyen
Chu-Lai
QUANG-NGAI
Nghia Hanh
Mo-Duc
Duc-Pho
DAKTO
Plei Can
Tan-Canh
Kontum
Bolleven
BONG-SON
AN-KHE
BINH-DINH
PLEIKU
QUY-NHON
TUY-HOA
BAN-ME-THUOT
NINH-HOA
NHA-TRANG
Cam-Ranh
Due Lap
Bu Prang
DA-LAT
Bu Bop
Loc-Ninh
Thien Ngon
Le Ve
Tay-Ninh
Dau-Tieng
Binh-Long
Phuoc-Vinh
Di-Linh
Bao-Loc
PHAN-RANG
Song Lui
THU-DAU-MOT
Tuc-Trung
BIEN-HOA
SAIGON
Nha-Be
PHAN-THIET
Binh-Chau
Phuoc-Buu
Long-Hai
MOCHOA
Ben-Luc
Cap-Lanh
Sa-Dec
TAN-AN
MY-THO
BA-RIA
O HA-TIEN
Ben-Tre
Long-Toan
Co-Cong
CAN-THO
Ca-Mau
VINH-LONG
VINH-BINH
Thoi Binh
Song-Doc
Khanh-Son
Kien-Binh
Mo Cay
TRA-VINH
SOC-TRANG
BAC-LIEU
CA-MAU
Nam-Can

SVNR-PRG's STATEMENT ON LUNAR NEW YEAR TRUCE

The Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam, on January 5, issued the following statement on the suspension of military attacks on the enemy on the occasion of the coming Lunar New Year:

"IN the sacred war of resistance against US aggression, for national salvation waged by our armed forces and people, the out going Ky Dau year marks another splendid and all-round victory of our armed forces and people and heavy setbacks sustained in all fields by the US and its Thieu-Ky-Khiem quislings.

Having failed bitterly on the military front, and facing ever greater political isolation in the United States and the world, experiencing economic dislocation and passivity on the diplomatic front, the enemy has been forced to continue to withdraw his troops at a time when the plan to "de-americanize the war" beef up the puppet army and "pacify" the rural areas are going bankrupt. These are the main features of the situation of the enemy in the Ky Dau year.

However, obstinate and extremely reactionary by nature, the US imperialists are not yet reconciled to failure. They still refuse to withdraw immediately, unconditionally and totally US troops from South Viet Nam, and are seeking ways to downgrade the Paris talks, drag out the war of aggression, while throwing US, puppet and satellite forces into raids to kill the South Viet Nam population, intensifying the bombing, shelling and toxic chemical sprays to destroy our villages and crops, pagodas and temples, churches and shrines, schools and hospitals.

Owing to their crimes in the coming Spring days of the Canh Tuat New Year, our people will not be able as yet to enjoy peace, family reunion in independence and freedom.

For the independence and freedom of the Fatherland, and acting upon President Ho Chi Minh's sacred Testament, the South Viet Nam armed forces and people are resolved to unite millions as one man, attack the enemy continually and violently in all the three strategic regions till the US quits and the puppets are toppled in order to seize final victory.

Nevertheless, on the occasion of the traditional New Year Festival of the nation, as in the previous years, proceeding from the respect for the customs and habits of our people, and from its unchanged humanitarian policy and its deep concern for the ardent desire of our people as well as the puppet, US and satellite troops, and in order to create good conditions for our people and the puppet, US and satellite troops to celebrate the New Year, the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the South Viet Nam Republic decided to suspend military attacks on the puppet, US and vassal troops for 4 days on the occasion of the Lunar New Year beginning from 06.00 hours February 5, 1970 Indo-China time, or 07.00 hours February 5, 1970 Saigon time, till 06.00 hours February 9, 1970 Indo-China time, or 07.00 hours February 9, 1970 Saigon time.

Our entire people, all our People's Liberation Armed Forces, and our cadres in all services and at all levels, should observe a "Tet" of solidarity and struggle and, at the same time, heighten their vigilance to crush in time all distortions and all acts of violation of our order on the suspension of military attacks. They should help the officers and men of the puppet army and the personnel of the puppet administration to rejoin their families and enjoy the "Tet" and let the US and satellite troops enjoy the "Tet" according to our customs.

Let the puppet, US, satellite troops unite to oppose all schemes and acts of sabotage by the cruel commanders, firmly oppose stand-by orders and other acts of control by the latter, oppose orders to go out for raids during the period covered by the truce initiated by the Provisional Revolutionary Government, and celebrate the "Tet" together with their families on those festive days.

Our humane policy and just national salvation stand are clear.

However, due to the obduracy and bellicosity of the US aggressors and their henchmen, all our forces and our entire people must firmly and persistently carry on the fight to shatter all aggressive schemes and acts, and win bigger victories in implementation of President Ho Chi Minh's teaching "Let us fight so that the Yanks quit and the puppets topple" and advance towards complete victory.

Growing contradictions among the Saigon ruling circles

"AN atmosphere of division prevails in Saigon which foretells an inevitable collapse for the Thieu administration" thus said the Japanese news agency Kyodo on November 4, 1969. This is supported by many facts.

Recently, in the Saigon "Senate" and "House of Representatives" rigged up by the Americans, many voices have came out against Thieu-Ky-Khiem who are setting up a military dictatorship and plotting to purge opposition deputies. Some people have demanded that Thieu be arraigned for treason. On December 21, 1969 AFP also admitted that "the Thieu government has faced a strong opposition in the Assembly".

Many factions in South Viet Nam also stood up against Thieu-Ky-Khiem. The so-called Thieu-sponsored "National League" is disintegrating. The "Social Democratic Front" (one of the six parties affiliated to Thieu's Front) has withdrawn from the League and declared "Thieu's Front is good for nothing". Tran Ngoc Lien "Progressist National Forces" has demanded the establishment of a government that stand for conciliation, an end to the war and criticized Thieu's policy.

In face of this opposition from so many quarters, Thieu-Ky-Khiem are also at loggerheads and openly blame each other. Nguyen Van Thieu has travelled here and there, spitting focal abuse. In Saigon, Dalat, Vung Tau... he has slandered and lashed at those in the Assembly and the government who are opposing him. He has called them "dogs" and asked to "behead them". He taxed the opposition factions as "spineless" and "idiotic" for having "stood half way" and advocated conciliation and a political solution instead of following the line of "Vietnamizing the war" dictated by the American bosses. The Saigon public opinion interprets it as a direct criticism levelled at Duong Van Minh, Tran Van Don, Tran Ngoc Lien.

Thieu has gone the length of using "fascist" measures to repress the opposition by a mass trial of those who served his regime, including such high functionaries as Huynh Van Trong, his former special assistant. Moreover, Thieu-Ky-Khiem has mustered hooligans to stage an "anti-Communist demonstration" right on Christmas night in an attempt to browbeat and crach down on the opposition, depriving deputies Tran Ngoc Chau, Hoang Ho, Pham The Truc... of their inviolability on the pretext of their "having relations with the Communists". They have also closed down many papers, and forbidden to import several French papers so-called "detrimental to the national spirit".

But the Thieu-Ky-Khiem repressive acts and Thieu's abuse have failed to overcome the opposition factions deputies. On the contrary, the stronger their persecution the greater their isolation. Of late, a number of opposition deputies have unmasked Thieu in the papers for having usurping the title of nationalist to clamp down on the opposition while he is selling out to a foreign power. The House of Representatives is in constant turmoil. Exactly as a Saigon paper has put it, "the recent scuffle in the House has reflected a sharp contradiction with 80 per cent of the deputies standing up against Thieu".

This situation is evidence of the irremediable disintegration of a totalitarian, abject and bellicose regime thoroughly subservient to the Americans. It also tears down the signboard of legality, constitutionality and democracy usurped by a US puppet administration to further US aggressive policy. It proves that Thieu-Ky-Khiem are but a gang of obdurate traitors, who resort to every means to smash the opposition to consolidate their dictatorship. It doubt that the confusion among the Saigon puppet administration will flare up until the Saigon regime will collapse.

This situation also points out that Nixon's plot to shore up Thieu-Ky-Khiem in order to implement his neo-colonialist design by "Vietnamizing" the war will be doomed to failure. Right as 649 American lawyers in New York have remarked, "the United States has put itself in an indefensible position by supporting a government (i.e. the Saigon puppet administration) which is corrupt, weak, unwilling and unable to build an equitable and viable Vietnamese society, for this government lives on US control, pressure and support". (New York Times, December 21, 1969).

NGUYEN DE

A model commander

Editor's note — 25 year-old Le Xuan Sinh, PLAF deputy-battalion commander, has set a shining example for the young generation on the front. For his rare valour and extraordinary feats he has, in the seven years in the army, been thrice awarded the Liberation Exploit Order, and many times the "Valiant Fighter" title.

Follows a condensation of his story by Pham Hoi and Ho Hai. Sinh was newly decorated "PLAF Hero".

LE XUAN SINH has built a solid name for his himself, with his courage, hard-workingness and combat skill. In 1962, hardly a month in the army, he was rated excellent in practice firing. Ever since, he has joined virtually in all the combats. Eleven times wounded, he has not once abandoned his post. To fight the aggressors, for him, is his sole raison d'être, his greatest happiness in life.

He first distinguished himself in Cha Do late in 1966. The attack had hardly begun when he, then deputy-platoon leader, was hit in his left shoulder with a shrapnel. The company commander advised him to leave, but he asked to stay. "This is my first try at the Yanks," he said.

The platoon leader was killed. He was stunned for a moment by the loss of his comrade. Then, the need to fill the gap prompted him to dash ahead of his men. Directly taking charge of a fire group, he blasted a breach in the enemy perimeter and led his men in. A hidden enemy machine gun was firing viciously at the attackers. Sinh plunged into a bomb crater to cut short the distance between him and the enemy gun, and nearly disposed of the latter with a grenade.

A bullet came to bury itself in his right arm; but he felt almost no pain, obsessed as he was with the thought of how to carry through the attack before dawn. Soon afterwards, both the machine gunner and anti-tanker were injured. He took up the abandoned guns and, resting his back against a tree, fired them alternately till the last counter-attack by the enemy was repulsed.

THE men had left the mountains far behind, and now offered to their view was the immense flat land, that stretched away to the horizon. Wind was the sovereign here.

Sinh took off his sandals and sat down on one of the narrow pathways among the field.

Just before dusk, the fighters began cutting across the fields toward their target, a US canton-ment. They moved so lightly that hardly a ripple appeared on the uniform carpet of golden rice above them. A score of yards from the enemy, they could discern a row of tents and a few GIs smoking to while away the time.

Nguyen Van T., one of thousands of dead shots, and one of PLAF outstanding commanders

At 2 a.m., the attack began. The bazokas blazed away at the tents, setting all on fire. Amid the shrieks of fear from the enemy, Sinh led his men forward. Suddenly they heard several dull thuds caused by solid objects falling on the ground behind them. No sooner had Sinh and the other fighters thrown themselves upon the ground than a hurrican swept past their back — they had moved too close to the enemy to get hit by the grenades hurled at them.

Sinh fired steadily at the bamboo groves, while his friends unleashed a hailstorm of hand-bombs and grenades on the enemy. They neutralized whatever resistance they met on their way and finally arrived at their assigned target, the artillery site, which they overran after a brief combat.

It was past midnight now. The task of Sinh's unit this time was to smash one of the "steel gates" into Saigon. The unit silently fanned out to encircle the "strategic hamlet."

As soon as PLAF heavy artillery went into action, pounding the Tan Son Nhut airport and the various enemy strongholds in Saigon's 1st and 2nd precincts, Sinh and his men opened up. The enemy's machine gun was blotted out right in the first minute. Sinh, pistol in hand, led his men into the post. From the main building emerged four enemy, all equipped with ultra rapid sub-machine guns. Sinh fired four shots, killing all.

Past the "strategic hamlet", the fighters came upon a road. They went up the road and arrived at a deserted street the houses on either side of which had been destroyed by previous enemy bombardments. All of a sudden, from a half-demolished house on their left, the enemy fired grenade-launchers and machine guns at them. Sinh has the unit's firepower concentrated on the enemy, and dispatched a group ahead with plastic charges. A moment later, the enemy resistance pocket went up in flames.

The main body of the enemy ran toward an empty factory. Sinh and his men followed hot upon its track. Inside the factory, however, they lost sight of the enemy. "Some more effort tonight, and a lot of blood may be saved tomorrow." His suggestion was approved by all. And so he told his men to get moving. His judgement turned out to be correct. At the gate of the second factory, they ran into the enemy. A fierce but brief combat ensued, and the whole enemy company was wiped out.

In the morning the battalion-commander came to him and shook his hand. "Good, old chap," the former said, smiling broadly. "You did the right thing last night."

THE rising sun was followed by enemy aircraft of all descriptions, which bombarded the ground without let up. Enemy armour also rumbled into action. Sinh and his men fill their gourds with fresh water in preparation for another hard day.

Two enemy reiforcement battalions came up from the other side of the river, preceded by seven heavy tanks. The vehicles, however, did not attempt to cross the bridge. Instead, they wheeled into combat formation, and fired their cannon and machine guns at the PLAF from far away.

There was no other choice for the enemy infantry but to get on alone, under their officers' prodding. The PLAF waited patiently, and not until they could see the chin straps of the helmets worn by the enemy did they open fire, thus cutting down the latter in heaps.

After each unsuccessful counter-attack by their infantry, the enemy retaliated with air and artillery strikes. Toward the end of the day, they mustered whatever forces they had in a leave-or-quit combat. Their troops and armour advanced in a compact wave.

Looking at the hardened faces of his comrades at this decisive hour, Sinh found it unnecessary to give them any encouragement. He only took off a grenade and place it in front of him. As a supreme order, that was enough. The other fighters reloaded their guns in a grim determination.

The close combat that followed was very bloody. The proximity of the two sides was such that PLAF men could pick up enemy grenades and hurl them back at the enemy.

Sinh rose up to his full height and, resting his gun on a tree, fired as he had never fired before.

The fight raged on. The PLAF did not budge an inch.

The enemy threw in more force.

A bullet lodged itself in Sinh's thigh.

In the searing pain that gripped him, Sinh heard familiar battle cries, which swelled and swelled in volume. Friendly units were coming.

The enemy infantry hastily about-turned and fled. The armoured vehicles wheeled about for a moment, undecided, then took flight too.

With a green brach serving as an improvised crutch, Sinh went about among his men, praising them heartily. His smile was very contagious.

FIDEL CASTRO:

"THE VIETNAMESE are a wonderful people"

TO mark the 11th anniversary of the victory of the Cuban revolution on January 1, 1970, the whole staffs of the embassies of the Republic of South Viet Nam and of the DRVN, two visiting youth delegations of South and North Viet Nam, and all Vietnamese students in Havana helped the Cuban population cut sugar-cane.

Fidel Castro, First Secretary of the Central Committee of the Cuban Communist Party and Premier of the Cuban Revolutionary Government, and Osvaldo Dorticos, Member of the Party Political Bureau and President of the Republic of Cuba, warmly welcomed the Vietnamese guests.

Fidel Castro pointed out:

"This once again shows that the sugar cane harvest for 10,000,000 tons of sugar is a success of socialism. The capitalists and the imperialists—above all the US imperialists—have kept predicting a bad Cuban sugar cane harvest and have been trying their best to make Cuba fail on the economic and agricultural front."

Fidel Castro stressed:

"The Vietnamese are good organizers and hard working. They are a wonderful people. They possess all that we are struggling for during these years, they have created a political conscience formed by many years of struggle, they are enclowed with an age-old tradition of struggle, a strong tradition of labour. We must provide us with such factors. Moreover, the Vietnamese are a good people, a 'noble one."

Fidel Castro spoke of the great efforts made by the Cuban people to carry out the 10 million tons of sugar plan and the promotion of production in general. The whole people have responded to the Appeal by the Party and Government by enthusiastically participating in the production campaign.

Fidel Castro announced that the first million of tons of sugar had been produced on December 13 and the second would be produced on Jan. 17. Such exploits are unknown to Cuban history.

The Vietnamese students closed the day with the song: "Liberate South Viet Nam", while Fidel Castro himself beat time.

Anti-war demonstration by progressive Americans during one of the "Moratorium Days."

Heartfelt feelings between Vietnamese and Lao fellows-in-arms

THE brilliant success of the visit in the liberated zone of Laos by the NFL's and SVNR PRG's delegation under Mr Tran Buu Kiem, Member of the Presidium of the FNL CC and Minister in the PRG President's office has filled the Vietnamese and Lao peoples with enthusiasm. It is a new signiicant page in the history of the militant friendship between the two nations.

In spite of hard fighting conditions, with US aircraft day and night bombing the liberated zone, the Lao armed forces and people have surmounted all difficulties and given a hearty welcome to the Southvietnamese people's genuine representatives.

The Southvietnamese people are deeply moved and feel grateful for the devoted care and affectionate words from the Lao Patriotic Front's Central Committee, Prince President Souphanouvong and the entire Lao armed forces and people to the NFL-PRG's delegation.

The joint communique between the NFL-PRG's delegation and the LPF is a fine symbol of the Southvietnamese and Lao peoples' unity mind and action against their common enemy, the US aggressors and their flunkeys, for the emancipation of their fatherlands. Expressing their identity of views on the international problems relating to the destiny, peace, and security of countries of Asia, Africa and Latin America victims of US aggression and intervention, the joint communique contributes to strengthening the Southvietnamese-Lao good neighbourly relations at present and future. "Viet Nam and Lao are the first line of the Indochinese Peoples Front against the US aggressors. We promise to fight side by side and be resolved to bury US imperialism into Indochina's sacred land," Prince President Souphanouvong said at a reception in honour of the delegation.

The Southvietnamese people highly admire and appreciate the heroic and persevering struggle of the Lao people through a quarter century under the clear-sighted leadership of the LPF headed by esteemed Prince President Souphanouvong. They are defeating the imperialist aggressors with the strongest military potential. This is a precious contribution to the Indochinese peoples' common struggle against imperialist aggression to safeguard their fundamental rights, an encouragement and effective help to the Southvietnamese people's struggle against US imperialism, for national salvation.

The people, NFL and PRG of South Viet Nam severely condemn the US war and aggressive acts in Laos, expose the true faces of the Saigon and Thailand mercenary governments, and unreservedly support the right position of the LPF to settle the Lao problem. We demand that the US administration put an end to its aggression, respect Lao sovereignty, independence, neutrality, unity and territorial integrity. First the US and their henchmen must unconditionally end all bombings, shellings and aggressive acts against the liberated zone occupied by the Lao patriotic forces, let the Lao people settle their own internal affairs on the basis of the 1962 Geneva Agreements on Laos and of the present Lao situation, without US interference.

The Southvietnamese people promise to combine their efforts with those of the Lao people to fight on until the US aggressors' total defeat, so that Vietnamese-Lao militant friendship may last for ever.

WORLD PEACE COUNCIL'S SUPPORT

MET in Khartum from December 13 to 15, the Presidium of the World Peace Council adopted a declaration and the 1970 program of action for Viet Nam and a resolution condemning the US massacre of Son My.

Condemning the US imperialists for stepping up their war of aggression in Viet Nam and Laos, the declaration stressed:

"The World Peace Council calls on all international peace organizations, and democratic organisations, all peace and justice loving peoples to step up their campaigns to demand that the USA put an end to their aggression in South Viet Nam, early and unconditionally pull out all US and satellite troops from South Viet Nam and let the Vietnamese people settle their own affairs, without foreign interference. They call on them to step up their world-wide activities in each country and in various forms, to condemn US war crimes and to link—in various countries—the movement of solidarity with Viet Nam to the anti-war movement in the USA.

We should strengthen our support to the heroic struggle of the Vietnamese people".

The participants to the meeting denounced the obdurate, warlike and perfidious nature of the Nixon administration which revealed itself through the policy of "vietnamization of the war" and condemned Nixon for having sabotaging the Paris Conference on Viet Nam.

On December 16, a meeting was held in Khartum by 3,000 people among them many delegates to the World Peace Council. The participants expressed their support to the struggle of the Vietnamese people and demanded that the USA immediately and unconditionally withdraw US and satellite troops from South Viet Nam.

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American Scientists Denounce US Chemical Warfare in South Viet Nam

ACCORDING to AP, in a symposium on chemical and biological warfare held by the American Association for the Advancement of Science in Boston, many American scientists came out strong against the US administration for using toxic chemicals in South Viet Nam and causing heavy losses to the local population.

Dr. Matthew Meselson, Professor of biology at Harvard University, said at a news conference that chemicals used by the US in South Viet Nam have had "unprecedented application", that enough chemicals "to cover 7,000 square miles (11,263 square kilometers) have been spread there.

Dr. Arthur W. Galston, professor of biology at Yale University, outlined some of the harmful effects found to be caused by toxic chemicals used in South Viet Nam, —

They included:

"Mangrove bushes have been destroyed along streams where the Vietnamese people get much of their fish supply. It will take an estimated 25 years for these to grow again.

— Soil erosion takes place where plants have been destroyed.

— An "irreversible conversion to a bricklike mass" takes place on soil where some of the chemicals are used.

— The beneficial algae of streams and paddies are destroyed."

Dr. Galston pointed out that in animal experiments, "birth defects are caused in some of the animals, among these defects are cleft palate, blindness, absence of a brain and abnormal liver.

* On the proposal of Democrat representative Koch, a 5,000 word-study on toxic chemicals used by the US aggressors in South Viet Nam, made by J.B. Neilands, professor of biochemistry at California University, was published in a report of the House of Representatives (Session of July 17, 1969).

According to this document, the toxic chemicals and gases used in South Viet Nam to destroy vegetation and crops and kill civilians are:

Herbicides:

— Cacodylic acid, phenoxyacetic acid and picloram (2. 4D and 2.4.5—T)

Toxic gases

— CN (Chloroacetophenone), CS (O - Chlorobenzolmalononitrile), DM (Diphenylaminochloroarsine). These products bring about fatigue, tears, nausea.

After analyzing the action of toxic chemicals, professor J.B. Neilands concludes:

1. — "By the massive and unrestrained use of herbicides and anti personnel gases in Viet Nam, the US is in violation of numerous international laws, including those pertaining to genocide.

2. — The land of Viet Nam, in the South, has been drenched with herbicides on a scale unprecedented in history. Certain of the agents used, i.e., picloram, have not and would not be approved for similar use in the US. No one can forecast what effect these herbicides will have on the human population, the total ecology and the future agricultural productivity of the soil.

3.— By maiming and killing civilians, most of whom are children under five, pregnant and lactating women, the aged and infirm, with application of anti personnel gases in confined spaces, the US is guilty of crimes against humanity. Furthermore, such use of anti personnel a gases has tended to legitimize chemical warfare."

Letter from Saigon

In the Revolutionary Storm to Come

Editor's note: *We publish today on the occasion of the National Students' Day on January 9, a letter written by a student of the Saigon History Faculty to his friend in the liberated zone.*

Saigon, December 31, 1969

Dear Hien,

It is not my ambition to tell you this time about the various aspects of the life of over 3 million people in this city under the regime of the US and the Thieu-Ky-Khiem junta. Neither do I try to describe in full the struggle waged by the Saigon population every day, in the streets, at bus stations, market-places, stores, offices, or factories. I only attempt to acquaint you with the revolutionary struggle put up by 38,000 students of the 11 university faculties in 1969.

As you certainly have known, this year the US and the puppets have ruthlessly cracked down upon the towns people. Besides the 10/68 law banning demonstrations and meetings, they levied the so-called "austerity taxes", increasing by 10 or 20 times the prices of over one thousand commodities. Curfew has been imposed, interdicting movement in all the 380 streets from 20 hrs to 06.00 hrs the following day, while 140 main forces battalions have been deployed around Saigon-Cholon-Gia Dinh area to cope with possible attacks by revolutionary armed forces and to suppress popular actions against them.

The enemy have tried to break up the patriotic anti-US movement of students, resorting to divisive methods, bribery, even violence. Besides, they have imposed military training on students during the Summer vacation and on other holidays, or forced us to join the "Popular Defence". They have also closed down the paper "Sinh Vien" (Student), and arrested the various leaders of student organizations, like the "Students' Relief Committee," the "Committee for the Defence of Buddhist Students", etc. Exams were organized perfunctorily, with open cheating. Over 80 per cent have failed at exams for the baccalaureate (first and second parts), and are threatened with military service.

There are no changes in the program, and as yet, no attempt has been made to use Vietnamese as the teaching medium. As far as education goes, the motto "Science — Personalism — Enlightenment" remains an empty word, while the curriculum is a dish partly à l'Americaine, partly à la Française, partly à la Japonaise.

Not a small number of professors and students have openly voiced their disappointment. Plainclothes police have been shadowing everybody.

But, let the dogs bark. The caravan just moves on. Whatever their tricks, the enemy cannot check our advance.

The Federation of Patriotic Students has worked tirelessly, in class-time, at club meetings, on red-letter days. The voice of students has been welcomed at many teach-ins concerning such matters as the restoration of peace, a termination end to the war, the withdrawal of all US and satellite troops, the overthrow of the Thieu-Ky-Khiem administration, the establishment of a peace cabinet for serious negotiations with the NFL, etc.

In the year, we twice received good news — the public appearance of the Municipal People's Revolutionary Committee in May, and the forming of the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam in June. To greet these great events, we went about in the city and its suburbs, acquainting the people of the historic documents issued by the Congress of the South Vietnamese People's Representatives. We also ran a special issue of the "Sinh Vien". There were also grand parting ceremonies at the various faculties when many of us joined the Saigon Liberation Regiment, or other armed units in the various precincts or city blocks, and no word can describe the joy of those chosen for a special pharmacy course in the liberated zone. In the streets, where the people have become the master, a general atmosphere of joy has pervaded. Taciturn professors are now approachable. We have even distributed copies of the documents of the historic Congress to many GIs and satellite troops, and received in return very warm thanks.

The week to mourn the Great Leader of the Nation took place with great solemnity in the campuses, and during which professors and students abstained from virtually all public entertainments. Broadcasts by the Voice of Viet Nam and Radio Liberation were tap-recorded and played back at faculty mourning services, and we can rightly boast of having learned by heart the condensed biography and Testament of our great President. The office of the FPS has received thousands of letters from its members, all pledging the resolve to follow in the steps of Uncle Ho, while many of us have volunteered for extra work, or for the PLAF.

Dear, the death of Uncle is too a great loss for us all. How Saigon has mourned for him! And how we regret for not seeing him! But, we are sure he will be pleased, because the people in this city, which is named after him, will do their utmost to act upon his teachings.

And we have boycotted compulsory military training, the draft, and the "Popular Defence Forces". There have been hunger strikes at the Faculties of Medecine, Pharmacy, Letters and History, and many of us have been arrested, or even murdered, like Chuong and Hung. Enemy prison and bayonet, far from deterring us, have only added to the fire, and the students' struggle has won the support of the people of all strata, even of many from the Saigon Congress. Support for as has also been voiced by our friends in Hue, Da Lat, Can Tho, and other cities, and we are resolved "to turn campuses into a front," as an appeal of the FPS has pointed out.

We have also co-ordinated with the anti-war movement in the United States. On Christmas Eve, the FPS gave a public lecture with the participation of many GIs, and, latter, a "Peace Concert," which, unfortunately, was dissolved by the police, and during which 15 of us were put under arrest. At present, we are actively working for the release of these friends, and certainly we shall carry our point.

Dear Hien, the young generation of the City of Ho Chi Minh has been tempered and tested for many years now, especially since 1968. Following the examples of Tran Van On, Le Quang Vinh, Le Hong To, and others, we will do our best in building up the revolutionary storm in the New Year.

Yours truly,

QUANG DUNG

US - PUPPETS' CRIMES IN 1969

1 — Wholesale massacres.

In 1969, the US - puppets launched tens of thousands of terror raids, many of them very big. Their aim was to push the people into "Concentration Camps".

In Quang Ngai province, under the command of general Cooksey, over 8,200 US and puppet soldiers supported by hundreds of aircraft, tanks and war vessels raided Ba Lang An area from January 13 to February 3, 1969, killing more than 300 inhabitants on the spot, and wounding hundreds of others. The raiders also herded nearly 11,000 other people into the Van Thanh concentration centre. In March, 1969, 1,200 of these were taken to the high sea where they were deliberately drowned.

In Quang Nam province, in the first five months of 1969, many sweeps were conducted by the enemy on Thang Binh district, where over 1,150 people were massacred. In Binh Duong and Binh Dao villages alone, 630 people were killed.

On November 12, 1969, also in Binh Duong village, the US - puppets killed 240 inhabitants, mostly women and children, and ferried 600 other people on helicopters to unknown destination.

From May 9 to 12, three battalions of the 5th Regiment, US 1st Marine Division, raided Loc Phuoc and Loc Hoa villages, Dai Loc district, killing over 300 inhabitants, most of them women and children.

From September 7 to 19, 1969, US and Pak Jung Hi troops raided a coastal area in Dien Ban district, killing 130 people, and wounding more than 600 others.

In Ben Tre province, according to still incomplete figures, from January to November 1969, the US - puppets killed 1,600 inhabitants and wounded thousands of others. They also destroyed with dynamite or fire over 12,000 houses.

In Can Tho province, from March 1st to May 20, the US - puppets conducted 213 sweeps in Thuan Hung, Xa Phien and Long Phu villages. All the houses and orchards were destroyed, and more than 550 people were killed or wounded.

2 — Intensified US bombings.

On February 23, 1969, the US - puppets conducted an artillery and air attack on the Kong H'Ring area in Kontum province on the High Plateaux, killing 350 inhabitants, and wounding over 1,000 others.

On June 18 and 19, enemy aircraft bombed and strafed various "strategic hamlets" in Vinh Xuong area, An Giang province, destroying 700 houses and causing 100 civilian casualties.

On August 10, US aircraft sank 50 fishing boats off the coast of Phan Ri village, Binh-Thuan province, killing or wounding nearly 200 fishermen.

In the Mekong delta provinces of Ben Tre and My Tho, from October 15 to November 15, the enemy fired over 25,000 cannon shells on populated areas, killing more than 400 people, and wounding 470 others.

Khanh Lam village of Ca Mau province, on September 28 and October 21 was subjected to bombardments by US B.52s and other aircraft. 110 villagers were killed.

In B.52 carpet bombings and ground raids, the US-puppets killed thousands of inhabitants and completely destroyed several hundred villages or hamlets in Thu Dau Mot, Binh Long and Quang Ngai provinces.

Razed to the ground were many areas, such as Go Noi in Quang Nam province, Tra Khuc, Quang Ngai province, and Vam Co Dong, Long An province.

3 — Toxic chemical sprays.

According to still incomplete statistics, in the first 10 months of 1969, 37 of South Viet Nam's 44 provinces were subject to US toxic chemical sprays. 285,000 people were affected. Over 500 of them mostly old persons, women and children were killed. Over 905,000 hectares of rice, fruit trees and other crops were ruined.

4 — Suppression in the town.

Besides, the US-puppet administration ruthlesly cracked down on the towns people who struggled for peace and independence.

In Saigon alone, thousands of Buddhists, students, intellectuals and pressmen were persecuted. Many were imprisoned. Dozens of Saigon newspapers were closed down. On December 29, 8 papers were banned from circulation.

5 — Ill-treatment of prisoners.

The US-puppets treated political prisoners with no less cruelty.

Late in March, they lined up 800 prisoners in Poulo Condor, and opened fire at them, killing or wounding them by the dozens.

On June 19, 1969, in a pre-arranged bomb-blast in the Tay Ninh prison, the enemy killed or wounded many of the political prisoners.

Late in July and from August 16 to 24, the US-puppets cracked down upon the over 1,400 women prisoners in Thu Duc, killing 4 of them, and wounding many others.

Information International Centre to Denounce War Crimes:

THE MASSACRE OF SON MY WAS NOT A UNIQUE AND ISOLATED CASE IN SOUTH VIET NAM

On December 19, 1969, an important press conference was held at the Great Hall of the "Palais d'Orsay" Hotel in Paris, Organized by the Information International Centre to Denounce War Crimes and the France-Viet Nam Medical Association, it was aimed at denouncing before international opinion US massacres of the civilian population and US biological and chemical war in South Viet Nam.

It was presided over by the famous philosopher and writer Jean Paul Sartre, and Professor Edgar Legener of the College of Science of Paris.

It was attended by 500 personalities, writers, intellectuals and journalists of France, the USA, Great Britain, Japan, West Germany, Viet Nam etc. A number of progressive American and Vietnamese nationals in Paris were also present.

The audience listened with a particular attention to Miss Pham Thi Lien — a survivor of the Ba Lang An massacre and member of the visiting delegation of the South Viet Nam Liberation Women's Union — who told about US crimes against her own family and village.

The press conference was turned into a trial in which witness gave evidence and monstruous US crimes were condemned.

US professor L.W. Pleiffer of Moltana University, who had visited South Viet Nam in March 1969 to investigate US chemical crimes and written a "Basic report on Chemical Warfare» made an account of what he had seen and spoke of the effects of US toxic chemicals in South Viet Nam. He concluded that toxic chemicals not only destroyed crops, vegetation, forests and rubber plantations in South Viet Nam but also seriously harmed man in South Viet Nam. Many species of vegetation were being exterminated and many forest areas needed several decades to be restored. According to him, *the fact that many women in South Viet Nam gave birth to monsters — as reported by the Saigon press — was probably a consequence of the spraying of toxic chemicals.*

Mrs Claire Cunhane of Canada had come to Viet Nam on October 6, 1967. She had worked as Chief Manager of the Quang Ngai City Hospital. She greatly moved her listeners when reading a few excerpts from her Quang Ngai diary and relating her trips through some areas in South Viet Nam. She had witnessed US massacres of civilians, scenes of children and women wounded or killed by US bombs and shells. She concluded that because of the nature of the US war in South Viet Nam, the Son My massacre was not the unique or isolated case.

US Professor Arthur Westing of Wilton University rejected as a big lie the official US claim that only defoliants harmless to man were used in South Viet Nam. He revealed that the volume of toxic chemicals sprayed on South Viet Nam over the past years if used at the current rate in the USA — would have served for 112 years.

Miss Pham Thi Lien, with tears in her eyes, recounted with indignation the Ba Lang An massacre, telling how members of her family had been killed and her hamlet destroyed by GIs.

James Weeks, a Viet Nam veteran of the 1st I-D stationed in the Phu Loi — Quang Loi area, gave details on crimes committed by GIs of his unit: the latter had indiscriminately shot at people even at children, killed a shop keeper to take a packet of cigarettes, ambushed a group of 40 passengers, most of them women and children, to kill them, and then reported them as Viet Cong, razed down many villages. US reporter Roger Williams working in South Viet Nam from Nov. 1968 to Jan. 1969 spoke to him of an order of a US colonel who had wanted a village to be razed: "Only a village with no living should can be considered a pacified one". The colonel had ordered to kill anyone to be found in a sheller, for "only the Viet Cong hid in shelters".

In his closing speech, professor Laurent Schwarz emphasized that evidences given by witnesses in the press conference once again confirmed the conclusions of the Bertrand Russell in Stockholm and Roskilde; contrary to Nixon's assertions, the Son My massacre was not the only one, there were other Son My's, such as the Ba Lang An crime occurring under Nixon's presidency.